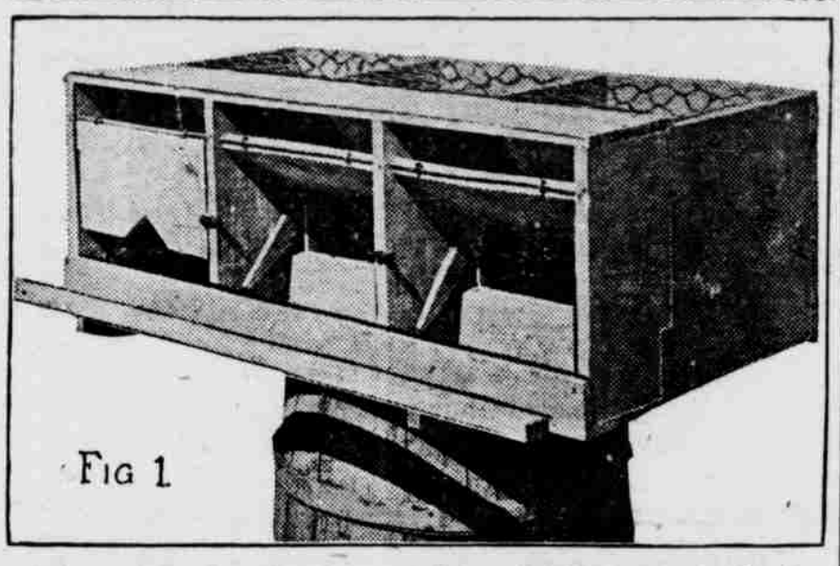
EFFICIENT TRAP NEST IS A NECESSITY



A trap nest is a laying nest so arranged that after a hen enters it she is confined until released by the attendant. The trap nest shown in the accompanying illustrations is used with good results on the government poultry farm and is quite similar to the nest used at the Connecticut state experiment station. It is very simple and may be built at a small cost.

The use of trap nests is essential in breeding poultry for both egg production and exhibition, where pedigree records are used in selecting either the males or females, and has a place in mass selection for increasing the egg production. Trap nests are of value in weeding out poor layers and increasing the average egg yield of a flock by selecting and breeding, but are not extensively used on account of the large amount or labor required to operate them. Some poultry breeders trap nest their pullets during their first six months of laying and use this as a basis in selecting their breeders for egg production.

One trap nest (Fig. 1) should be provided for four to five hens kept in flocks of fifty or more, while more trap nests per hen are necessary in smaller flocks. The hens are banded with numbered bands, and a record is kept of their egg production. The nests should be visited at least three times daily, and preferably four or five times, frequent trips being especially necessary when the hens are laying freely and during hot weather.

When the hen enters this nest her back raises the door (c), which releases the catch or trigger (a) and allows the door to shut. The catch should be set so that its edge just holds the door, which position is regulated by the screw or nail at the lower inside edge of the catch. A washer should be placed on the screw (d) between the catch and the side of the nest to prevent this catch from sticking. The guard (b) around the catch keeps the nestling material away from the catch. The length of the catch which supports the door and the triangular notch in the door may be varied slightly for very small or very large hens.

Constructing a Three-Compartment Nest.

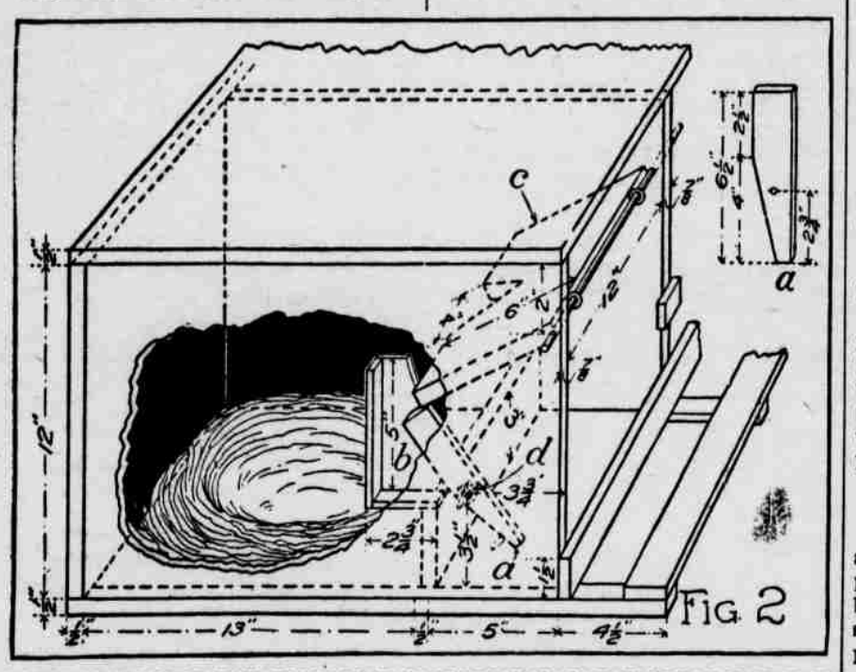
Cut four seven-eighth-inch boards for ends and partitions, 12 inches wide by 19 inches long, enough one-half-inch boards 39½ inches long, laid lengthwise, to cover the top, back and bottom, and one strip 39½ inches long and one and one-half inches wide for the front of the nests. Cut three pieces of one-half-inch boards 12 inches long and three inches high to insert in the nest to hold the nesting material away from the door.

Nail the top, back and bottom to the ends and partitions (see Fig. 2), insert the three-inch strips in the nests, and make the guard (b), nailing it to the left side of the nest. Bore a hole in the catch (a) large enough so that the catch will move freely when screwed into position on the side. Place a washer on the screw between the catch and the side of the nest. Place a screw at the lower edge of the catch to stop it when set, so that the catch will just hold the door.

Make the doors (c) of seven-eighths-inch material, 12 inches by six inches, and cut a triangular notch in the center four inches wide. Put two screw eyes in the top of the doors and bore holes in the front of the nests two inches below the top (inside measurement), through which a three-sixteenth-inch wire is run to support the doors.

Attach a narrow strip to the front of the nests for the hens to jump upon when entering the nests. Place a button or block of wood on the front of each partition to hold the door when the nest is closed.

If the nests are to be placed directly below the dropping board, a wire top should be used on the next, except for a five-inch strip of wood on the front edge of the top to stiffen the nest.



WOVEN WIRE FENCE IS BEST

Problem Has Always Loomed Up High to the Beginner With Sheep—Put Barbed Wire on Top.

The fencing problem has always loomed up high to the beginner in raising sheep. It is not, however, a very difficult one if it is undertaken in an intelligent manner. It does not require heavy fence to hold sheep, but barbed wire will not make satisfactory sheep fence.

Most sheep raisers use a fence constructed of woven wire from thirty to forty-two inches high with from five to nine horizontal wires and sixteen to twenty stays to the rod. Any fence coming inside these limits if put up with a post each fourteen to sixteen feet will prove satisfactory for sheep.

If a thirty-inch woven wire is used, it should have at least one barbed wire on top of it. It usually pays to put one or two barbed wires on top of the woven wire, however, as this will make a fence that will turn horses and cattle as well as sheep.

DIFFICULT PEST TO CONTROL

Squash-Vine Borer Can Only Be Eradicated by Cutting Out the Affected Parts of Vines.

The squash-vine borer, which destroys melons, cucumbers, squashes and pumpkins by boring through the stems of the plants, and through the leaf stalks, is a hard pest to control. Spraying does no good. About the only way to get rid of it is to cut out the affected parts of the vines. If your crop is injured this year, plant vines in a different place next year. Harrow the infected fields lightly in the fall, and then plow at least six inches deep in the spring. Or you may cover the vines with earth here and there, while growing, so that new roots will put out, and if the borer cuts off the plant from the original root it will still live.—Farm Life.

Productive of Cow.

There seems to be no limit to the cow's productiveness; at least it has not yet been reached. Any dairyman is liable to have a jewel in his herd.

AILMENTS OF BABIES

MANY OF THEM ARE EASILY PREVENTABLE.

Mother, by Wise Management, May Do Away With a Great Deal of the Troubles Which So Frequently Affect th Little Ones.

(Prepared by the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor.)

It is no doubt true, many times, that a fretful, unhappy baby is made so quite unnecessarily, and instead of rocking or patting him, or walking up and down with him in her arms, or possibly giving him a dose of medicine to quiet him, the mother should seek the cause of his discomfort and remove it.

It may be that the baby is thirsty. There is no doubt that babies frequently suffer from thirst. It is necessary, particularly in summer, to give plenty of drinking water to all children who are too young to get it for themselves. A drink of water will often satisfy a fretful baby and sometimes it is all that is needed to send a restless one off into quiet sleep.

One of the most frequent sources of misery for the baby is found in his clothing, especially in hot weather, when any clothing is a burden to him to wear. So many babies are overdressed that it is no wonder they fret. Compelled to wear woolen underwear, knitted socks, stiffly starched caps and dresses it is only natural that they should protest vigorously. Neither wool nor starch has any place in the clothing of the baby in hot weather.

One of the troubles from which a baby often suffers is prickly heat. This ailment appears as a fine red rash usually on the neck and shoulders and gradually spreads to the head, face and arms. It is caused by overheating, due either to hot weather or to the fact that the baby is too warmly dressed. The rash comes and goes with the heat, and causes intense itching. The remedy for it is to take off all the clothing and give the baby a sponge bath in tepid water in which common baking soda has been dissolved. Use one tablespoonful of soda to two quarts of water. Use no soap, and do not rub the skin, but pat it dry with a soft towel. After the skin is thoroughly dry, dust the inflamed surfaces with a plain talcum powder.

This ailment, like all others, is more readily prevented than cured. Frequent cool baths, very little clothing, simple food and living in cool rooms, or in the open air will probably save the summer baby from much of the annoyance of prickly heat and other more serious ills.

Fat babies are very apt to suffer from chafing, especially in hot weather. It appears as a redness of the skin in the buttocks or in the armpits, or wherever two skin surfaces persistently rub together.

Much the same treatment is required as in prickly heat. Never use soap on an inflamed skin. Instead use a soda, bran or starch bath, as advised in a former article. Directions for these baths are given in a publication called "Infant Care," which can be had, free of charge, by addressing a request to the Chief of the Children's bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Great care should be taken not to let the baby scratch the skin, when it is irritated. Sift together two parts powdered cornstarch and one part boric acid, and use it freely on the chafed parts. Remove wet or soiled diapers at once. Wash and dry the flesh thoroughly, then dust the powder freely between the legs.

Berry Tartlets.

Berry tartlets are very popular. They are made by lining patty pans with pastry, which is then baked. The berries are cooked with sufficient sugar to sweeten them well and then poured into the pastry shells.

Pineapple Ice.

Peel two large yellow pineapples. Grate them into a bowl and add the juice of one grapefruit and one lemon. Boil one and a half pounds of sugar in one quart of water for ten minutes. When cold, mix the fruit, which may be strained, with it and freeze.

Baked Pork Chops.

Take as many thick slices as are needed for the meal, place in a pan with a little water, lay a thin slice of onion on each, season with salt and pepper and bake till done.

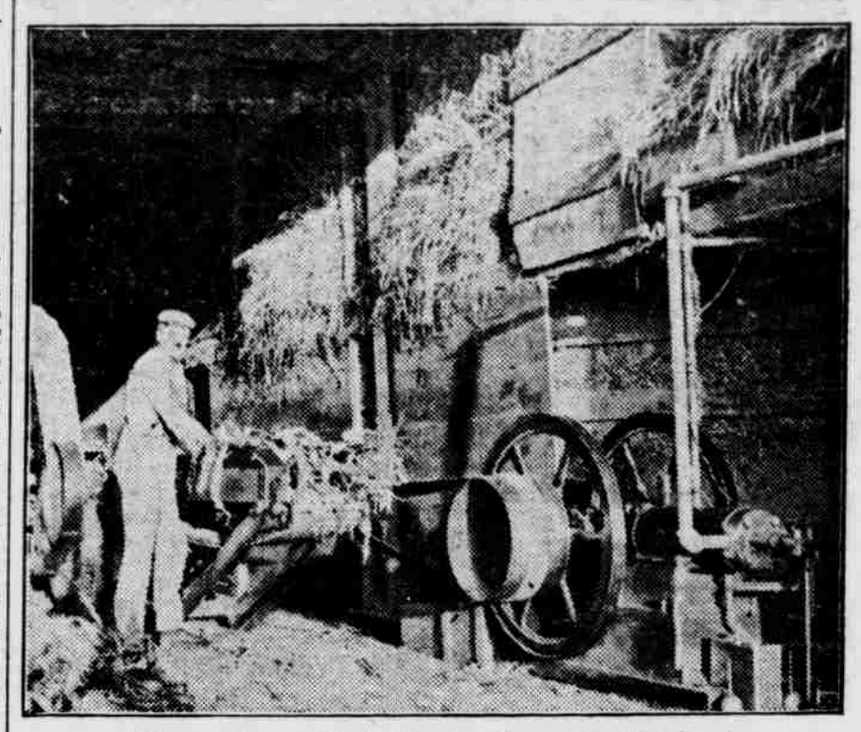
Fried Pineapple.

Slice a ripe but firm pineapple. Core and dip the slices in a batter made by beating together one egg, a pinch of salt, tablespoonful of sugar, half a cupful of milk and two heaping tablespoonfuls of flour. Fry in butter on a pancake griddle. Dust with powdered sugar and serve.

When Fruit Is Too Acid.

When cooking sour fruit, add a pinch of carbonate of soda to the puice, it will not then need so much sugar for sweetening.

ECONOMICAL WAY TO STORE CORN PLANT



Silage Cutter at Work, Showing Connection With Engine.

(By A. F. KIDDER, Louisiana Experiment Station.)

The silo is a large cisternlike construction for preserving green forage crops that may be put away in the summer to feed during the winter months. We all enjoy eating fresh vegetables and do not realize what it means to have to live on dried materials. Live stock prefer green food, and the silo is simply a means of keeping it as nearly as possible in that condition. There is no method so economical of storing the whole corn plant; not one bit need be wasted if cut above the ground.

Wood, metal and cement are the materials used in constructing this live stock pantry. At first silos were built underground, but the extra work of removing the material and seepage water soon showed that it would be better to place them above ground. Good silos have been built of 2 by 6-inch timbers that were carefully planed, for a temporary building that will serve the purpose, provided the anchoring is well done. One can purchase the wood silos already set up, and for permanency this is better than using ordinary timbers, as they are more certain to be air-tight. Forms for concrete may be quite easily constructed of heavy sheet iron and some "two by fours." Steel rods or wire fencing may be used for reenforcing. This kind is permanent if carefully put up. Metal silos are a comparatively new experiment, but they are recommended by their owners. Investigate the advantages of the various makes.

IDLE LAND LOSES FERTILITY

Less Organic Matter and Plant Food Lost When Soil Occupied by Crop Than When Resting.

Southern land should be kept at work. In the North land is usually left idle during a part of the year. No particular harm comes there from such practices if it does not wash, but there is another consideration for the southern farmer. Repeated soil analysis at various times have shown that less organic matter and plant food are lost when the land is occupied by a crop than when it is idle.

On idle land the plant food leaches away, especially in loose sandy soils, because it has no plant there to use it as it becomes available. Then, too, the sun beams down unhindered on the soil and burns out the organic matter which would otherwise be protected by a growing crop. The University of Florida experiment station is advocating that the land be planted to catch crops between seasons for the foregoing reasons.

FEEDING HORSE MUSTY OATS

Likely to Produce Intestinal Troubles and Possibly Blind Staggers—Use Much Care.

(By W. P. SHULER, Oklahoma Experiment Station.)

A good deal of care must of necessity be taken this fall in feeding musty oats to horses continuously, because of the likelihood to produce severe intestinal troubles and possibly blind staggers. Blind staggers is caused by molds which thrive on stunted corn, dampened barley, oats and spoiled feed of all kinds. If it is necessary to feed grain in this condition, give a couple of teaspoonful doses of common salt with it at all feedings.

Watch the bowels of your animals carefully, and whenever they show any tendency to constipation administer one-half ounce of fluid extract of aloes or one-half pound of epsom salts as a drench. This kind of grain can be fed if care is taken that too much is not given and the animals have plenty of good, clean hay, fresh water and salt to go along with it.

BUSINESS OF BREEDING HOGS

Much Better for Beginner to Start in on Modest Scale and Gradually Increase His Herd.

(By E. L. JORDAN, Louisiana Experiment Station.)

It is much better for the beginner in the business of breeding hogs and other animals to start in on a modest scale and gradually increase his business. It is usually impossible for him to purchase extremely high-priced foundation stock, and, in fact, it would be unwise for him to do so. He can afford to put a considerable sum into his herd sire, which must be up to the standard, but he should be content for a time to be classed as a multiplier of numbers of animals of the

Healthy Sow.

breed in question, which he can dispose of to farmers who are always in the market for good foundation stock for pork herds. In the meantime he can be studying the breed, laying out his farm with the idea of gradually increasing his operations as a breeder, and, most important of all, he will acquire a fund of practical information regarding swine management, and the discerning eye which will tell him at a glance whether an animal possesses the requisite qualities to merit a place in his herd.

Cattle Will Advertise.

Any man ought to be ashamed to send his cows out of doors wearing as an ornament five or six pounds of dried fertilizer on their flanks. You do not always need to put a notice in the paper to advertise. Just neglect your cattle and they will advertise you, all right.

Feeding Buttermilk.

In feeding buttermilk it is well to put a tablespoonful of baking soda to each pailful of buttermilk. This puts it in the right shape for whetting the appetites of the pigs, and gives them good growth.

Soil Characteristics.

Although a soil may be rich because it contains plant food, it may be unproductive. The fertility of the land is its productive power; tillage is one of the means by which this productive power may be increased. Moisture is an important factor in fruit growing. As a rule the apples in sod orchards are under size; they lack color, and are often deficient in natural juiciness. This fruit presents a marked contrast to that grown in orchards that have been tilled carefully.

Kill Striped Gophers.

Striped gophers can be killed with poisoned wheat or poisoned corn, but this should be kept out of the way of chickens and other creatures of the farm.

Cultivate Asparagus.

Cultivate the asparagus as long as possible. The growth made now is producing the shoots for next year.

Keep Down the Weeds.

Hand hoeing is necessary to keep down the weeds and runners in the strawberry patch.